

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 44, 57, 61, 63, 75, 76, 80, 81, 90, 91, 93-96, 98 and 100-112 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 99 has been canceled, and claim 111 has been amended. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, claim 1 was objected to based on the spelling of traceability. By this Amendment, claim 111 has been amended to address the Examiner's concern. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claims 44, 61, 63, 75, 81, 90, 91, 93-96, 98, 99, 103-105, 107, 109 and 111 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Stasiuk (U.S. Patent No. 6,105,806). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

At the outset, it is noted that claim 99 has been canceled, in order to expedite allowance of the application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue this subject matter in one or more divisional applications.

Furthermore, enclosed herewith is a substitute Declaration under 37 CFR 1.131 which has been duly executed by the inventor, Mr. Manfred Jendick. During a telephone conference with Examiner Huynh on October 12, 2004, it was agreed that the Substitute Declaration overcomes the perceived deficiencies noted in page 9 of the Office Action.

Accordingly, Stasiuk is not available as prior art. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 80, 100-102, 106, 108, 110 and 112 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Stasiuk. In addition, claims 57 and 76 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Stasiuk in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. 7-53099. However, because Stasiuk is not available as

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October 18, 2004

prior art in view of the attached Substitute Declaration, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

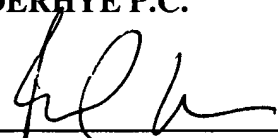
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all the claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should Examiner Huynh believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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